

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 18 and 20 as follows.

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) A method for promoting the formation, maintenance or repair of tissue, ~~which comprises the step of~~ comprising:
providing an agent capable of inducing a leptin or leptin receptor-mediated angiogenic response; and
administering, to a subject in need thereof, an effective amount of an the agent to promote the formation, maintenance or repair of the tissue.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the angiogenic response affects vascular cells in the subject.
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein administering comprises administering the agent ~~is administered~~ locally and the vascular cell response occurs locally.

Claims 21-28 (Canceled).